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10/701,231	11/03/2003	Robert M. Yraceburu	200205320-1	5273

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EXAMINER

GOLDBERG, BRIAN J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2861

DATE MAILED: 08/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/701,231

Applicant(s)

YRACEBURU ET AL.

Examiner

Brian Goldberg

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/3/03
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1-3, 6-8, 11-13 objected to because of the following informalities: The term "printzone" should read "print zone" as in claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 14, and 15.

Appropriate correction is required.

2. Claim 13 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. The dependent claim 13 fails to further limit the independent claim 11. Claim 13 sets forth "a print disable zone...includes...an area of the printzone substantially equal to a length of the edge guide times a width of a portion of the print media that lies beneath the edge guide," which was already claimed in independent claim 11.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-4, 11-14 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Saito (US Patent 6869176).

5. Regarding claim 1, Saito discloses “a printmode for an inkjet printer (Fig 1) including a plurality of print nozzles (401 and 402 of Fig 4) and an edge guide (112 of Fig 5) projecting into a printzone (501 of Fig 5) into which at least one of the plurality of print nozzles may be transported for deposition of a fluid onto a print media (301 of Fig 5), the printmode comprising a printmask defining a print disable zone (col 6 ln 64 – col 7 ln 7) including a pre-selected area of the printzone substantially equal to an area of the edge guide (112-1 of Fig 5) that projects into the printzone.” The print disable zone, as defined by Saito, is the area onto which print nozzle array 401 does not print, and the print zone includes the area onto which print nozzle array 401 is able to print, with the edge guide 112 “projecting into” that print zone.

6. Regarding claim 2, Saito discloses “the print disable zone further comprises an area of the printzone substantially equal to a length of the edge guide (112-1 of Fig 5) times a width of a print media (301 of Fig 5).”

7. Regarding claim 3, Saito discloses “the print disable zone further comprises an area of the printzone substantially equal to a length of the edge guide (112-1 of Fig 5) times a width of a portion of the print media (301 of Fig 5) that lies beneath the edge guide.”

8. Regarding claim 4, Saito discloses “a narrow margin print zone (601 of Fig 6) located adjacent to the print disable zone (A2 to B of Fig 6).” Also, in Fig 5, “narrow margin print zone” 501 is “located adjacent to the print disable zone” as defined above.

9. Regarding claim 11, Saito discloses “a method for narrow margin printing with an inkjet printer including...a printmode including a printmask defining a print disable zone

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(col 6 ln 64 – col 7 ln 7) including a pre-selected area of the printzone substantially equal to length of the edge guide (112-1 of Fig 5) times a width of a portion of the print media (301 of Fig 5) that lies beneath the edge guide; transporting (P of Fig 5, conveyance) a print media into a printzone (501 of Fig 5 and 601 of Fig 6) defined by a height of the plurality of print nozzles (401 and 402 of Fig 4) and a width of the print media (301 of Fig 5) ; and selectively depositing ink from the print nozzle to the media forming an image including a narrow margin by printing in a narrow margin mode only in those marginal areas that are not occupied by the edge guide (see Fig 5).” Printing in Fig 5 occurs “only in those marginal areas that are not occupied by the edge guide (112-1).”

10. Regarding claim 12, Saito discloses “defining an area of the printzone substantially equal to a length of the edge guide (112-1 of Fig 5) times a width of a print media (301 of Fig 5) as the print disable zone.”

11. Regarding claim 13, Saito discloses “defining an area of the printzone substantially equal to a length of the edge guide (112-1 of Fig 5) times a width of a portion of the print media (301 of Fig 5) that lies beneath the edge guide” as the print disable zone.

12. Regarding claim 14, Saito discloses “defining a narrow margin print zone (601 of Fig 6) located adjacent to the print disable zone (A2 to B of Fig 6).” Also, in Fig 5, “narrow margin print zone” 501 is “located adjacent to the print disable zone” as defined above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

13. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

14. Claims 5 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito in view of Bland et al. (US Patent 6536869).

15. Regarding claim 5, Saito discloses the claimed invention as set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 4. Saito also discloses a "narrow margin print zone (Figs 5 and 6)." Thus Saito meets the claimed invention except "a graduated print zone located between a narrow margin print zone and a full image density print zone."

16. Bland et al. teach providing "a graduated print zone (col 4 ln 22-27)." It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to provide "a graduated print zone." One would have been motivated to so modify Saito for the benefit of a gradual rather than abrupt change between sections of the print zone.

17. Regarding claim 15, Saito discloses the claimed invention as set forth above with respect to claim 11. Saito also discloses a "narrow margin print zone (Figs 5 and 6)." Thus Saito meets the claimed invention except "a graduated print zone located between a narrow margin print zone and a full image density print zone."

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18. Bland et al. teach providing "a graduated print zone (col 4 ln 22-27)." It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to provide "a graduated print zone." One would have been motivated to so modify Saito for the benefit of a gradual rather than abrupt change between sections of the print zone.

19. Claims 6-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito in view of Valero et al (US Patent 6896349).

20. Regarding claim 6, Saito discloses "a printzone defined by a height of the plurality of print nozzles and the width of the print media (501 of Fig 5); an edge guide (112 of Fig 5) located adjacent to a marginal edge of the print media (301 of Fig 5), the edge guide located in the printzone; and a printmode including a printmask defining a print disable zone (col 6 ln 64 – col 7 ln 7) including a pre-selected area of the printzone substantially equal to an area of the edge guide that projects into the printzone." The print disable zone, as defined by Saito, is the area onto which print nozzle array 401 does not print, and the print zone includes the area onto which print nozzle array 401 is able to print, with the edge guide 112 "projecting into" that print zone. Thus Saito meets the claimed invention except "a printer controller; a media transport assembly connected to and controlled by the printer controller for transporting a print media along a media travel direction; a printhead including a plurality of print nozzles, the printhead connected to and controlled by the printer controller for controllably activating the print nozzles to eject drops of ink, the printhead connected to a carriage for transporting the printhead across the print media."

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21. Valero et al. teach providing "a printer controller (20 of Fig 2); a media transport assembly connected to and controlled by the printer controller (col 5 ln 33-34) for transporting a print media (8b of Fig 1) along a media travel direction (6 and 18 of Fig 1); a printhead including a plurality of print nozzles (10a-d of Fig 1), the printhead connected to and controlled by the printer controller (col 5 ln 33-34) for controllably activating the print nozzles to eject drops of ink, the printhead connected to a carriage for transporting the printhead across the print media (see Fig 1)." It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to provide "a printer controller; a media transport assembly connected to and controlled by the printer controller for transporting a print media along a media travel direction; a printhead including a plurality of print nozzles, the printhead connected to and controlled by the printer controller for controllably activating the print nozzles to eject drops of ink, the printhead connected to a carriage for transporting the printhead across the print media." One would have been motivated to so modify Saito for the benefit of logically and systematically controlling each aspect of the inkjet imaging device, including a transport system to move the print media, as well as a printhead to eject the ink onto the media as is common in the art.

22. Regarding claims 7-9, Saito discloses the claimed invention as set forth above regarding claims 2-4 respectively.

23. Regarding claim 10, Saito and Bland et al. disclose the claimed invention as set forth above with respect to claim 5.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Goldberg whose telephone number is 571-272-2728. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 9AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Gray can be reached on 571-272-2119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Gray', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

David Gray
Primary Examiner

BJG